

In response to the Final Office Action dated January 6, 2004, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

On page 1, please amend the title of the invention as follows:

Invention Disclosure: ~~COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR OPTICAL SCANNING~~  
~~INPUTTING, STORAGE, ORGANIZATION, AUTHENTICATING, AND ELECTRONIC~~  
~~TRANSMITTING AND RECEIVING, OF MEDICAL RECORDS AND PATIENT~~  
~~INFORMATION, PRIMARILY FOR USE IN A MEDICAL EMERGENCY.~~

On page 6, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 21 as follows:

Please reference figure 1. ~~figure 2.~~ The invention comprises hardware and software for the unique optical scanning of original paper and/or film (x-ray, CATscan) medical records and charts. The unique scanning process involves embedding a digital physician signature watermark and embedding unique patient identifier watermark into the patient document during the scanning process. An alternative serial or parallel computer port allows for digitized data to be inputted into the system computer from a pre-existing digital medical data base. Smart software, which is an integral part of the system, verifies that each patient chart being transferred from the pre-existing medical database has an authentic and original digital physician signature to verify (checked against a stored library of signatures) invention disclosed because more and more hospitals, clinics and group practices are using medical record software to enter patient records which eliminates the need to keep a hard copy record. Because hard copy records, with the physicians original signature are not being kept for records, this opens up the legal question of what defines an "original medical record and physician signature, which have not been tampered or altered. One solution, which is

incorporated into this art and invention, is the creation of electronic signatures for each physician which would be a unique alpha numeric identification code and which would be embedded into the digital fabric of the document as a digital watermark. Said electronic signatures, or any appropriate alpha numerical identifier of equal accuracy and security, would have to accompany medical records, drug prescriptions, medical tests, etc., to verify the authenticity of the medical data and to ensure the data was not altered or tampered with. Therefore, the inclusion of a means of storing an alpha numerical library of physician electronic signatures and comparing those signature to the signatures on electronic medical data pages is an important part of the art and uniqueness of this invention. Also an important part of this invention is the unique optical scanning described herein of only original hardcopy medical records with original signatures of physicians.